

3

DAY 1

NJ ASK - SECURE MATERIAL - DO NOT COPY

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

Begin your writing here.

Imagine this: You're sitting outside crickets chirping, cicadas buzzing. The trees are around you. You see them by the light of the campfire. You're sitting among your friends, singing songs, having a great time. You look up to see the stars, twinkling away from the light pollution. The tent behind you is all yours. When you get tired, you know you can get into your sleeping bag, relaxed and tired. I would choose a camping trip for three reasons. One, is that you're one with nature, fresh air, wild animals. Two, it's a great way to build character. No I, kids, iPhones, none of that. Three is that we're with friends, relaxing, talking and being together. The first reason I would go camping is, as mentioned before, that we are with nature.

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LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY
(continued)

Continue your writing here.

There are wild animals, not strangers. Huge trees, not skyscrapers. Cicadas, not mosquitoes. What's more relaxing than to fall asleep to the "shhh-shhh"ing of a cicada? Certainly not the roar of traffic. Here, while camping we are with nature, and we can see the true earth, not cars, planes, and buses.

Another reason I would choose camping over an amusement park is that camping builds character. In the woods, you're away from iPods, iPhones, iPads, cell phones, everything. You can build a fire, not an extra floor on Tiny Towers. You can pitch a tent, not a virtual baseball. With everyone out of their iPods, not playing Angry Birds, maybe they will see how beautiful nature is.

The final reason is that you can be with your friends in the

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LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY
(continued)

Continue your writing here.

words, gathered around a campfire, singing cheesy songs, talking with friends, and being in the company of others. We really appreciate other people when we are in nature. With friends, we can catch up on family news, and maybe tell some jokes. If we were at an amusement park, the only communication would be screaming. Plus, it's quiet in the woods. No yelling, just the peaceful chirping of birds, and the rustle of the leaves.

Now that you see what camping is like, maybe you can understand why I would choose to go camping. Being in the woods or in nature, away from technology, and being with others. So the next time you're planning a day trip to an amusement park, think about camping.

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Continue your writing here.

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DAY 2

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LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

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What better way to spend a winter break than skiing, high in the mountains where snow and bears are abundant? I don't think there is one. Skiing can be extremely fun, as well as a good way to get exercise.

One reason skiing is healthy is because you are using leg muscles. Skiing tones and strengthens thigh, calf, and even ankle muscles when gliding over powdery snow. As you turn from side to side, using your poles to guide you, the muscles in your legs are becoming stronger. When you bend down or hit a mogule, your ankles have to bend, and the muscles just below your calf are straining to keep you up.

Another reason skiing is healthy is because it helps

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DAY 2

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LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY (continued)

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with your reaction time. If you're going down the mountain and suddenly another trail merges with yours, you have to be ready to dodge any oblivious skier. Also, if you're in the glades, you have to see the small trail in front of you and take those fast, sharp turns and not run into a tree.

Skiing is really fun when you're on Twister a more difficult trail on Gore Mountain in North Creek, NY. You are having a great time. The swish of snow under your skis is audible through your cozy helmets. You round the first bend, going fast. There's a slight dip and you gain speed. The wind is roaring from your ears. A light snowfall begins as you go off of each turn, perfectly in control. Now you see

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DAY 2

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LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY
(continued)

Continue your writing here.

what it's like to ski.
As I said before, there is no
better way to spend a winter
break than on Oltemo, or
Gore Mountain, or Smugglers Notch,
or Whiteface, or any other
ski mountain. For these reasons,
I think skiing is fun and
a great way to get exercise.

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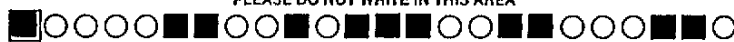
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